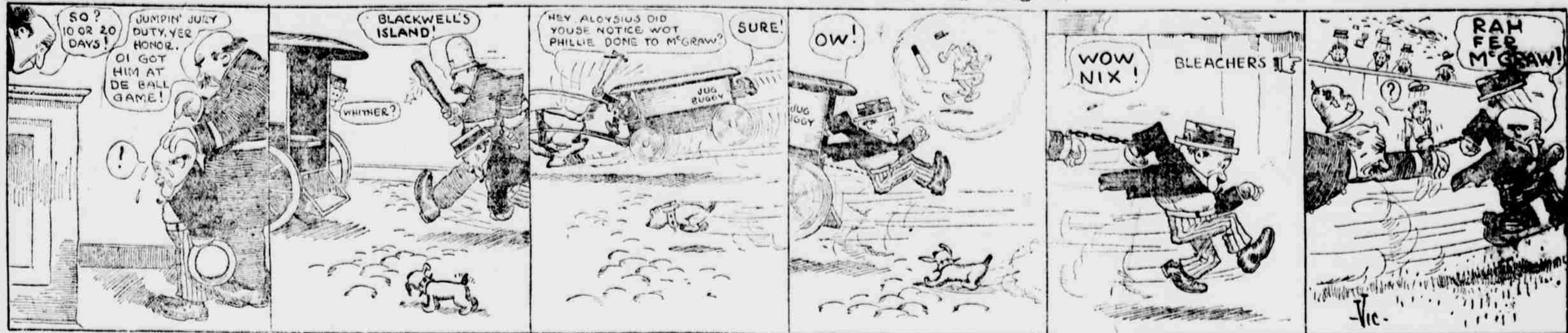


FLOOEY THE FAN

By Vic

(He Overhears Conversation in the Jug Wagon.)



Inside the Ring

With the
Great Fighters
Charles White.

America's Foremost Referee
Says "Mysterious Billy" Smith
Was One of the Most Inter-
esting Fighters in Pugilistic
History—He Had Fights Out-
side With Nearly Every Man
He Fought in the Ring.

NO. 16—"MYSTERIOUS BILLY" SMITH,

First Welterweight Champion.
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"Mysterious Billy" Smith was a unique character outside of the ring, and there are many amusing stories told about him. While he was living in Boston he was crossing the Harvard Bridge one night, accompanied by Mike Sears. "Billy" had been taking more drinks than were good for him, and just as they reached the far end of the structure they bumped into a crowd of college boys.

Now, if there was anything Smith loved it was a rough-and-tumble scuffle with Boston's celebrated seniors, so he and Sears weren't long in starting a scrap. In the middle of the fight Smith and one of the college boys tumbled off the bridge and into the river. The student couldn't swim and Smith, good naturedly dragged him out of the water. When Smith got back to the bridge he found that Sears had been thrown over. Two heavy pig students were holding a whispered conversation, and immediately took after them, picking out the largest of the two. The fellow had undoubtedly had foolish conversations, for he promptly applied "Billy" by the neck and the back of the trousers and heaved him into the river for the second time. Smith, evidently didn't believe it worth while to return again

and I was chosen to act as referee.

I knew that Walcott would do the right thing if he were allowed to, but I was afraid Smith would use every foul trick he knew, so when they came to the center of the ring for instructions I read the first rule in the regulations: "Now you fellows listen to what I'm going to tell you. I said, 'I know that you are going to get into a fight on the way you did at Boston, but I'm not going to stand for anything along these lines. The first man that tries to pull anything like this is going to be thrown out of the ring. I've got a bunch of po-



"BILLY" FOUND HIMSELF IN THE RIVER AGAIN.

Heaven in both your corners, and Tom O'Rourke told me that he'll give neither one of you a cent unless you fight fairly."

Smith imposed on? "Well, you know, Charlie, I'm the fastest fighter you ever saw in your life. Every- body knows me," replied Smith. "That's all right, you go ahead and fight fairly," I answered.

Black Joe battled in with "Ah, always fight fair, too. An always try to put your man in a bad position. In a third meeting, on July 20, 1911, at Minneapolis, Smith lost the title to Houn. The fight was one of the best ever seen in the West.

At one time "Mysterious Billy" was taken to England by a well known English sport. While there Smith challenged all England, and he made a promotion to fight and two men for pounds apiece and on the same night. The fight for the first four rounds was of the class of the best. In the fifth round Walcott led with his left and lost his balance. In trying to recover the black's left elbow collided with Smith's ear. Smith immediately grabbed Joe by the shoulder, looked over at me and called out: "Hey, Mr. Referee, look at this poor fellow. I now claim this fight."

Walcott was dumfounded. "Mah Gawn, Mister Referee, just look what's happened. A foul!" he exclaimed as he looked at me with the most wondrous expression on his face that I've ever seen.

In the twenty-first round Smith knocked Walcott down and he took the count of nine. The fight lasted twenty-five rounds and I awarded the decision to Smith. Both O'Rourke and Walcott then claimed that the "Mysterious" had never before come so near being knocked out.

Walcott Atried of Smith. Smith and Walcott had several other fights, and between engagements they were always barking at one another. But Joe always seemed to be afraid of Smith's rough tactics, and he never forgot the time "Billy" bit him on top of the head.

Smith met his celebrated opponent, Tommy Ryan, after he had fought Tom Williams at Coney Island. The first meeting on Aug. 25, 1902, resulted in a

draw. Another six round fight, in Boston, a little later, also resulted in a draw. In a third meeting, on July 20, 1911, at Minneapolis, Smith lost the title to Houn. The fight was one of the best ever seen in the West.

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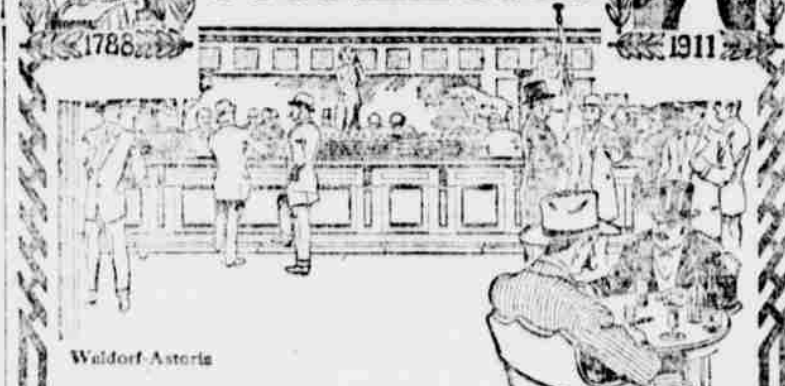
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"BILLY" BIT WALCOTT'S HEAD

and he swam down the river a ways before he crawled out on the bank.

I shall never forget Billy's first fight with Joe Walcott. They were both of Boston and there was a lot of feeling between them. Walcott was a champion and Billy was a champion. They were matched to fight for fifteen rounds at the Boston Music Hall on March 1, 1902. Billy was the favorite, because he was the white boy.

Barney Aaron refereed. When the fight started, the crowd went wild. Walcott was a champion and Billy was a champion. They were matched to fight for fifteen rounds at the Boston Music Hall on March 1, 1902. Billy was the favorite, because he was the white boy.

During the fight Aaron was a very busy fellow. He was sitting near the ring and he was looking at the fight. Walcott was a champion and Billy was a champion. They were matched to fight for fifteen rounds at the Boston Music Hall on March 1, 1902. Billy was the favorite, because he was the white boy.

Shortly after the G. Burns match I went to fight at the old Lenox A. C. in New York. The match was for the welterweight championship of the world, the required weight was 142